Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1 – 12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A communication device configured to operate in a discontinuous transmission packet telephony network having a channel access delay, the communication device comprising:

an access delay reducer configured to remove a first portion of a ~~at least one~~ frame of an input voice signal to form a time-scaled frame, the first portion comprising an integer number of a pitch period's worth of the input voice signal, the access delay reducer being further configured to form an overlap-added segment at an end portion of the time-scaled frame, wherein:

the overlap-added segment is formed from a first segment of the frame, the first segment located immediately before the first portion, and a second segment of the frame, the second segment comprising an endmost portion of a terminal section of the frame.

14. (Original) The communication device according to claim 13, wherein the access delay reducer is configured to remove the first portion from a terminal section of said frame.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The communication device according to claim ~~16~~ 13, wherein the first and second segments are each multiplied by a window and added together to form the overlap-added segment.

18. (Original) The communication device according to claim 13, wherein the access delay reducer is configured to remove a first portion from a corresponding frame for each talkspurt of a call.

19. (Original) The communication device according to claim 13, wherein the access delay reducer is configured to remove the first portion from the frame, even if the first portion comprises unvoiced speech.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a speech signal for transmission over a network, the method comprising:

(a) receiving an input frame of a speech signal; and

(b) removing an integer number of a pitch period's worth of the speech signal from the input frame to form a time-scaled frame, wherein:

the speech signal is compressed to reduce an access delay,

an end portion of the time-scaled frame comprises an overlap-added segment, and

the overlap-added segment is formed from a first segment of the input frame, the first segment located immediately before the removed portion and a second segment of the input frame, the second segment comprising an endmost portion of a terminal section of the input frame.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further wherein the time-scaled frame is a compressed time-scaled frame.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b) until a plurality of compressed time-scaled frames corresponds to the access delay.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein a new pitch period is calculated for each frame of voice signal from which a corresponding first portion is cut.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

establishing a time interval over which the access delay is to be mitigated, wherein the time interval is longer than the access delay.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

establishing a value governing a rate at which the access delay is mitigated.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein steps (a)-(b) are performed for each talkspurt of a call.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the removed portion of the speech signal is removed from a terminal section of the input frame.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~29~~ 20, wherein the first and second segments are each multiplied by a window and added together to form the overlap-added segment.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the integer number of a pitch period's worth of the speech signal is removed even if the integer number of the pitch period's worth of the speech signal comprises unvoiced speech.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the access delay is a channel access delay for the network.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the access delay is due to a delay associated with a voice activity detector.

34-38. (Canceled)